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Moorland-Spingarn Research Center

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INTERSECTION

*The Newsletter of the Howard University Libraries
and the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center*



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The Howard University Archives Program

BY DR. CLIFFORD L. MUSE, JR.

On September 27, 1980, the Howard University Board of Trustees established the Howard University Archives (HUA) as the official archival agency of the university. The three primary objectives of the Howard University Archives as stated in its founding charter are: (1) to assure the retention, protection, maintenance and disposition of official university records in accordance with operational, legal, financial and historical requirements; (2) to reduce university dependency on the use of costly office space and filing equipment for records storage; and (3) to provide efficient access to official records that accurately document the history, development and achievements of Howard University, its contributions to African American higher education, and its contributions to the local, national and international communities.

continued on page 3



*Tewodros (Teddy) Abebe,
Lead Editor, Intersection,
The Newsletter of HUL/MSRC
June 2021*



*Dr. Clifford Muse, University Archivist retires
June 30, 2021 after 40 years of service to the
University. He was the first University Archivist.*

Editor's Note

A Tribute to Dr. Clifford Muse, Jr.

BY TEWODROS ABEBE, LEAD EDITOR

Throughout its 154-year journey, Howard University has been blessed with extraordinary men and women who dedicated their services to the documentation and preservation of its illustrious history. The man who has been leading that effort for the past forty years will be retiring from the University on June 30, 2021. Clifford L. Muse, Jr., Ph.D., has been serving as University Archivist since 1981. He is also the Associate Director of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center (MSRC). As one who worked with him closely for two decades, the news of his retirement prompts me to share a few thoughts.

I met Dr. Muse during my frequent visits to MSRC as a Howard University graduate student. As an enthusiastic young researcher, I found the variety and depth of the research center's resources to be incredibly fascinating. Most of my time on campus, therefore, was split between Douglass Hall and the Moorland Reading Room. It was during that period I got to know Dr. Muse. My conversations with him provided me with the opportunity to join the University Archives as a part-time student worker. Shortly after, Dr. Muse encouraged me to apply for a newly created full time position at the Archives office, which I did. I went through the hiring process and joined MSRC as the Assistant Archivist; the first professional staff position under the University Archivist. Prior to my appointment to the position, an Archives Technician assisted the University Archivist.

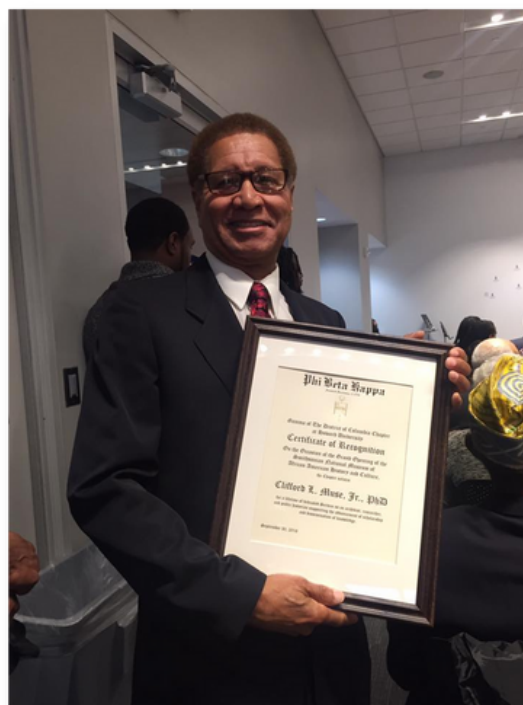
From my first assignment as a student worker to this day, Dr. Muse has remained a diligent teacher and mentor whose insights and guidance enhanced my knowledge of the archives profession. The trainings I received under him, including the many seminars and workshops that I attended with his recommendations, have given me the necessary skills for managing the University's official

and historical records. On numerous occasions, he gave me the opportunity to represent him or MSRC at various university-wide committees, projects, and other important events. Because of him, I met, worked with, and continued to maintain a cordial relationship with two outstanding Howard historians and former MSRC directors, Drs. Thomas Battle and Michael Winston. Dr. Battle was the director who approved my hiring based on Dr. Muse's recommendation.

Dr. Muse's important role as University Archivist personifies Howard's motto: Truth and Service. That is why he was the recipient of the LaRue V. Barkwell Capstone Distinguished Service Award at this year's Charter Day Convocation: a fitting recognition -and conclusion- of a productive career that spanned four decades under the tenures of five University presidents.

As I wish Dr. Muse a happy retirement, I also remain hopeful that his institutional memory and knowledge will continue to serve Howard well for years to come.

Tewodros (Teddy) Abebe is the Senior Archivist at the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center.



Dr. Clifford Muse receives a Certificate of Appreciation from Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society, October 2016. Courtesy of the Howard University Archives

THE HOWARD UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES PROGRAM, CONT...

To accomplish its archival and information management objectives, the Howard University Archives employs both archival and records and information management concepts, principles and standard practices. The Howard records management program assists university personnel in identifying official records of value that need to be preserved for certain periods of time and in identifying nonessential records that can be disposed of in a systematic, professional manner. The Howard University Archives accessions, maintains and preserves official records of historical value for administrative and research use.

The Howard University Archives is a division of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center which is recognized as one of the world's largest and most comprehensive repositories for documentation of the history and culture of people of African descent in Africa, the Americas and other parts of

the world. As previously noted, the Howard University Archives deals exclusively with the official records of the university. Archival records are primarily generated during normal working business hours and are produced by Howard staff, faculty and students using university resources. As by-products of organizational functions and activities, Howard's archival records, which are owned by

the university, document its principal mission, its, primary functions and activities and its contributions to those communities it interacts with.

Clifford Muse, Jr. is the University Archivist in Howard University Archives



*Howard University Baseball Team, 1924
Courtesy of the Howard University Archives*



AFRICANA FILM AND DISCUSSION SERIES

BY CELIA DANIEL

The Africana Film and Discussion Series is a partnership of the Howard University Libraries' Reference Department, the Howard University Afro-American Studies/Africana Department and African Studies departments. Each year, we three partners identify a series of films that emanate from and about the African Diaspora. We choose films that deal with the issues faced by Black people the world over—films made by Black people on the continent and in the African Diaspora. Our purpose is to educate students about the African Diaspora so that they can see where and how they personally fit into that collective. Our goal is always to help them find solutions to the problems faced by Black people around the globe.

This year because of the pandemic the program went virtual. This format was new, hence, there was hesitancy because of the unknown. Even so, we were successful in featuring the films listed below.

1. Ava Duvernay's 13th:

This film argues, that although the amendment was to end slavery, that there was a loophole which allowed the law to keep slavery... by another name. In 2021, it is known as mass incarceration. (This is the message of 13th)

2.Fire in Babylon:

This is a film about the West Indian

cricket team and their dominance in the international sport of cricket for fifteen years straight.

3. Althea Gibson in the American Masters:

This is the story of one of the greatest tennis players who ever lived. She does not get the recognition she deserves. She was the first. The Williams sisters came long after Althea.

4.From Ghetto to Parliament: The incredible story of Bobi Wine:

This fascinating story came out of Uganda.

5.The Friendliest Town:

This is the story of Kelvin Sewell, the first Black chief of police in Pocomoke city on the eastern shores of Maryland. He left the town and left his job because of the wrongful machinations of the white supremacists in that town.

6. Pray the Devil back to Hell:

The Gripping account of a group of African women who demanded peace in their war-torn country of Liberia. They answered the question... what are you willing to do to save your country and your children?

7.One Night in Miami:

In the aftermath of Cassius clay's defeat of Sonny Liston in 1964, the boxer meets with Malcolm X, Sam Cooke and Jim Brown, to change the course of history in the segregated South.

8.Who Killed Malcolm X:

This film by Abdur Rahman Muhammad, is yet another in the ongoing saga, in the mystery of who in fact killed Malcolm X? He has a theory. . . Do you?

9.The Death of John Pombe Magufuli:

This was the last president of Tanzania. A woman now holds that position.

10. Queen Nanny of the Maroons:

She was a slave on the sugar plantations of Jamaica. She freed herself and others. She then became the greatest heroine in the resistance against slavery. She won the British. Her story needs to be amplified.

11. Finding Fela:

Based on the political life and music of one of Africa's greatest musicians. Some say he is the greatest who ever lived. He created Afrobeat. Signifying all of Africa. He is Nigerian born African musical icon, Fela Ransome Kuti.

We will resume our programing in September. If you have any ideas that you will want us to pursue... go to the site below and leave a message. Also, for more information, visit the Africana Film and Discussion site by clicking on the link below.

For more information, visit the [Africana Film and Discussion website](#) Until then... see you in September...



Celia Daniel
Head of Reference & Instruction
Howard University Libraries



STAFF SPOTLIGHT: ALEXANDRA WILSON

BY STAFF

Alex Wilson, the Administrative Officer for the University Libraries and the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center is a shining light in the library system. In just over one year, she has coordinated the Administrative Office into a well-organized department. Her system of organization, calm presence, and fun morning shout-outs are why she is such a valuable part of the library team. Below are a few things you may not know about Alex.

1. Where are you from?

I was born in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, but I grew up in the DMV area.

2. Where did you go to school (college)?

I went to Bryn Mawr College.

3. Why did you want to work at HU?

Howard University holds so much history surrounding Black academia and excellence—therefore the thought of working at HU seemed only natural. I wanted to support the HU mission the best way I could, and participate in shaping the legacy.

4. How do you think of those amazingly creative morning shout-outs or our fun Friday activities?

I'm so glad the staff enjoys them! Two of the most important activities in my life are acquiring knowledge and spreading joy. The morning shout-out and the Friday activities allow me to do both at work — and it's wonderful. I try to keep the news and activities relevant to the mood of the times in order to spark discussion, thought, and sometimes laughter.

5. During the pandemic, what new thing have you started to do or learned?

Like most people, I have started to focus more seriously on my home economic skills. I have never cooked this much in my life! I have been learning how to cook, sew, garden, and entertain guests. Removing home economics from school was a bad decision and it should be reinstated!

6. As an art major, who is your favorite artist?

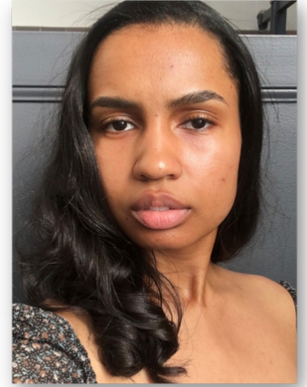
It is so hard to choose a favorite! It would most likely be a four-way tie between: Gordon Parks, Richard Serra, Mickalene Thomas, and really anyone in the Hudson River School. They are all so different! But to me, all of them are able to give depth and perspective to people, places, or feelings that are rarely examined.

7. What has been your favorite place to travel (outside of the U.S.)?

My favorite place so far has been Barcelona, Spain. The feeling there was electric, my favorite soccer team plays there, and eating paella and tapas on the Mediterranean Sea is what I imagine heaven to be like.

8. What Spanish word or phrase do you wish we all knew?

I would go with “Al mal tiempo, buena cara” which means when there are bad times you should still find the joy in whatever you can.



Alexandra Wilson
Administrative Officer
Howard University Libraries
and the Moorland-Spingarn
Research Center

Did you know?

Library orientation is not a one time event. You can get research support, schedule an appointment with a subject librarian, or just drop in to one of the library workshops all year long.



UPDATES FROM THE DIGITAL ARCHIVE

BY LOPEZ D. MATTHEWS, JR.

The latest digital collection from the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center has been posted to the Digital Howard institutional repository! The Howard University Commencement programs went live in early May just before this year's commencement program. They can be found online at <https://dh.howard.edu/hugradpro/>

With a new look, Digital Howard continued to provide open access to researchers from around the globe. Take a look at this snapshot of usage statistics for the period January - May 31, 2021:

Top Ten Most Visited Faculty Profiles

Dawuni, Josephine Jarpa	Faculty Member
Palmer, Robert T.	Faculty Member
Onwumechili, Chukwuka	Faculty Member, Graduate Student
Middendorf, George	Faculty Member
McDougall, Harold A.	Faculty Member
Campbell, Michael C	Faculty Member
Ullah, Hemayet	Faculty Member
Lee, Clarence	Faculty Member
Robinson, Courtney Jaime	Faculty Member
Collier Jackson, Fatimah Linda	Faculty Member

Top Ten Most Downloaded Documents and Images:		
Title		Downloads
Louis Armstrong's wife, Lucille Wilson, at the Liberian Embassy. July 1958 6		1570
Thurgood Marshall and his family 2		1309
Thurgood Marshall and his family		1125
Wounded Huey P. Newton		1094
The U.S. Involvement in Angola		888
Thurgood Marshall and his wife cutting a cake 2		853
Essay\ Reflections\ On Traditional\ African Cosmology		811
The Hilltop 9-26-1969		776
The Bison: 1927		514
Book Review:The Destruction of Black Civilization		478

DIGITAL HOWARD USAGE STATISTICS JANUARY - MAY 2021

121,930 Downloads

45,187 Metadata Page Hits

145 Streams

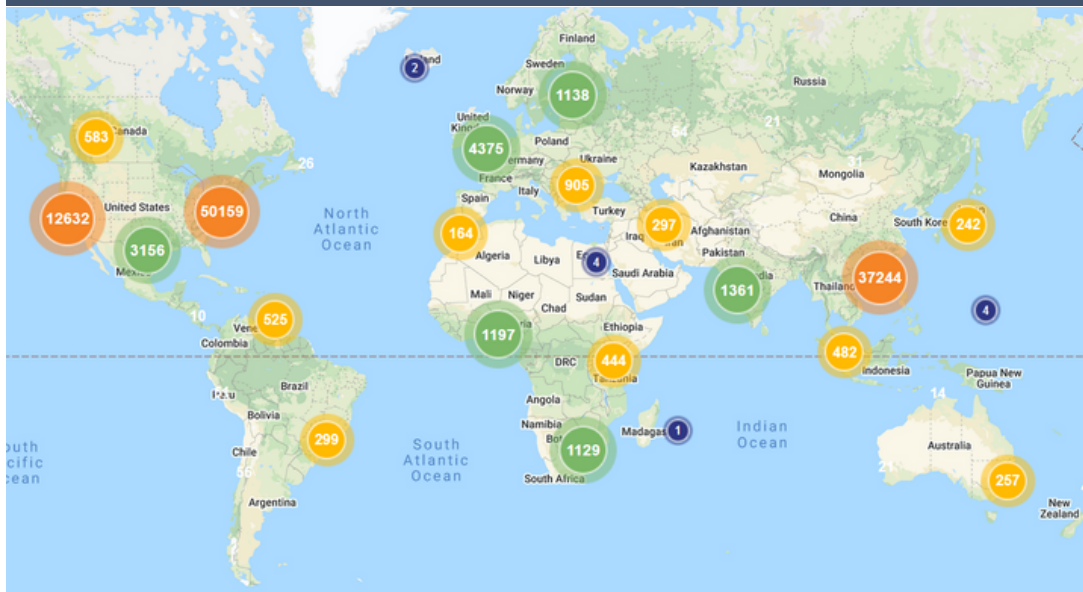
356 Works Posted

2,413 Institutions

184 Countries

- > United States
- > China
- > United Kingdom
- > Canada
- > India
- > South Africa
- > France
- > Nigeria
- > Germany
- > Korea, Republic Of

Readership Distribution



Lopez D. Matthews, Jr.
Manager, Digital Production Center



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[HTTPS://LIBRARY.HOWARD.EDU/ONLINESUPPORT](https://library.howard.edu/onlinesupport)

MOORLAND-SPINGARN RESEARCH CENTER IS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC. FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT COLLECTIONS AND REMOTE SERVICES PLEASE VISIT:
[HTTPS://LIBRARY.HOWARD.EDU/MSRC](https://library.howard.edu/msrc)

HOWARD UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES PICK UP SERVICES FOR PRE-REQUESTED BOOKS WILL BE TEMPORARILY HALTED, JULY 7TH- 21ST, WHILE THE LIBRARY IS CLOSED FOR CONSTRUCTION. DURING THIS TIME, BOOK CIRCULATION WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE. THE LIBRARY WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE ELECTRONIC ARTICLE AND BOOK CHAPTER REQUESTS. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT ACCESSDEPT@HOWARD.EDU OR VISIT:
[HTTPS://LIBRARY.HOWARD.EDU/ONLINESUPPORT/PICKUPSERVICES](https://library.howard.edu/onlinesupport/pickupservices)

"INTERSECTION" EDITORIAL TEAM

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ALEXANDRA WILSON, EDITORIAL ASSISTANT
LOPEZ MATTHEWS, JR., PRODUCTION AND DESIGN